(a) whether Government propose to remove from the Hindu Marriage Act and the Special Marriage Act the Clauses prohibiting matrimony if one or both partners have epilepsy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (c) The question of bringing in necessary amendments in the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954 for removal of references to epilepsy therein is under active consideration and a decision in the matter will be taken in consultation with the other concerned Ministries.

CONFERENCE OF CHIEF JUSTICE, CHIEF MINISTERS, LAW MINISTERS/ SECRETARIES AT NEW DELHI

3205. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :
SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any conference of Chief Justice, Chief Ministers, Law Ministers and Law Secretaries was held at New Delhi ;

(b) if so, the date thereof and the names of the participants and the agenda of the Conference;

(c) whether any discussion was held on vacant posts in the High Courts and Supreme Court, if so, the details thereof ;

(d) the decisions taken thereat; and

(e) what steps are being contemplated to implement the decisions taken therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A meeting of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices was held in New Delhi on 4 December, 1993. Law Ministers and Law Secretaries of various States/U.Ts. were also present, among others, in the meeting. The names of participants in the meeting are indicated in the enclosed statement (*See* below). The agenda for the meeting was "Arrears of cases in courts".

(c) to (e) The recommendations made by Chief Ministers and Chief Justices at the Meeting are contained in the Resolution adopted by them at the meeting, a copy of which is placed at Annexure. (*See* Appendix CLXIX, Annexure No. 63) Para 4 of the Resolution contains the recommendations relating to appointment of Judges in the Superior Courts. Government is considering the further action to be taken in respect of the recommendations contained in the Resolution.

STATEMENT

Names of Participants at the Meeting of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices

1. UNION

Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao,
Prime Minister

Shri H. R. Bhardwaj,
Minister of State for
Law, Justice & Co. Affairs

Shri A. N. Verma,
Principal Secretary to PM

Dr. P. C. Rao,
Union Law Secretary

Sri N. N. Vohra,
Secretary (Justice) &
Home Secretary

Shri K. L. Mohanpuria,
Secretary,
Legislative Department

Shri Arun Sinha,
Additional Secretary,
Deptt. of Justice

Dr. V. K. Agarwal,
Additional Secretary,
Department of Legal Affairs,

Shri R. L. Meena,
Additional Secretary,
Department of Legal Affairs

Shri N. K. Sinha,
J. S. to P. M.

Shri S. K. Bose,
Joint Secretary,
Department of Justice

Shri M. P. Singh,
Joint Secretary,
Department of Justice

2. STATES

1. *Andhra Pradesh* :

(i) Shri A. Dharma Rao
Minister of Home & Justice

(ii) Shri K. Ranga Rao,
Law Secretary

2. *Arunachal Pradesh* :

(i) Shri Gegong Apang,
Chief Minister

(ii) Shri K. A. Prabhakar Rao,
Law Secretary

3. *Assam* :

(i) Shri G. C. Langthasa,
Minister Hill Area
Development

(ii) Shri D.N. Konwar,
Law Minister

(iii) Shri B. Chetia,
Law Secretary

4. *Bihar* :

(i) Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav,
Chief Minister

(ii) Shri Ram Naresh Prasad,
Law Minister

(iii) Shri Vidya Nand,
Law Secretary

5. *Goa* :

(i) Dr. Wilfred D'Souza,
Chief Minister

(ii) Shri Wuizinho Faleiro,
Law Minister

(iii) Shri B. S. Subbanna,
Law Secretary

6. *Gujarat* :

(i) Shri Chimanbhai Patel,
Chief Minister

(ii) Shri Navinbhai Shastri,
Law Minister

(iii) Smt. Kokilaben Trivedi,
Joint Secretary (Legal)

7. *Haryana* :

(i) Shri Bhajan Lal
Chief Minister

(ii) Shri Subhash Batra,
Chief Parlt. Secy.

(iii) Shri T. P. Garg,
Law Secretary

(iv) Shri A. N. Mathur,
Secretary (Home & Justice)

8. *Himachal Pradesh* :

(i) Shri Surendra Nath,
Governor

(ii) Shri K. C. Sood,
Law Secretary

9. *Jammu & Kashmir* :

(i) Shri G. M. Thakur,
Law Secretary

10. *Karnataka* :

(i) Shri M. Veerappan Moily
Chief Minister

(ii) Shri H. Ramaswamy,
Law Minister

(iii) Shri B. N. Mallikarjuna,
Law Secretary

11. *Kerala* :

(i) Shri K. Karunakaran,
Chief Minister

(ii) Shri A. M. Sivadas,
Law Secretary

12. *Madhya Pradesh* :

(i) Shri N. K. Jain, Law Secretary

13. *Maharashtra* :

(i) Shri Ramrao Adik, Law Minister

(ii) Shri B. G. More, Law Secretary

14. *Manipur* :

(i) Shri R. K. Dorendra Singh, Chief Minister

(ii) Shri L. Inbocha Singh, Law Secretary

15. *Meghalaya* :

(i) Shri S.C. Marak, Chief Minister.

(ii) Shri L. Jyrwa, Law Secretary.

16. *Nagaland* :

(i) Shri Zaire Angami, Law Secretary

17. *Orissa* :

(i) Shri Narasingha Misra, Law Minister.

(ii) Shri P. K. Panigrahi, Law Secretary

18. *Punjab* :

(i) Shri Surender Nath, Governor

(ii) Shri A. S. Gil, Legal Remembrancer

19. *Rajasthan* :

(i) Shri J. P. Bansal, Law Secretary

20. *Sikkim* :

(i) Shri Nar Bahadur Bhandari, Chief Minister

(ii) Shri K. N. Upreti, Law Minister

(iii) Shri B. R. Pradhan, Law Secretary

21. *Tamil Nadu* :

(i) Shri K. A. Krishnaswamy, Law Minister.

(ii) Shri K. Malaisamy, Secretary Home & Courts

(iii) Shri M. Muniraman, Law Secretary

22. *Tripura* :

(i) Shri Dashrath Deb, Chief Minister

(ii) Shri P. K. Sarkar, Law Secretary

23. *Uttar Pradesh* :

(i) Shri A. K. Srivastava, Law Secretary.

24. *West Bengal* :

(i) Sri Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister

(ii) Sri A. Q. Molla, Law Minister

(iii) Shri R. N. Ray, Law Secretary

3. UNION TERRITORIES

25. *Andaman & Nicobar* :

(i) Shri Basudeb Kundu, Judicial Secretary

26. *Chandigarh* :

(i) Shri Surendra Nath, Administrator

(ii) Shri Randhir Singh, Legal Remembrancer.

27. *Delhi* :

(i) Shri R. K. Takkar, Chief Secretary

(i) Shri K. S. Gupta, Law & Judl. Secretary

28. *Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu* :

(i) Shri K. S. Baidwan, Administrator

(ii) Smt. Sindhushree Khullar, Development Commissioner

29. *Pondicherry* :

(i) Shri A. Gandhiraj, Law Minister

(ii) Shri V. Narayanaswamy, Deputy Secretary.

4. SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

Shri Justice M. N. Venkatachaliah, Chief Justice of India

Shri Justice S. R. Pandian, Judge, Supreme Court of India

Shri Justice A. M. Ahmadi, Judge, Supreme Court of India

5. HIGH COURTS

Shri Justice V. K. Khanna, Acting Chief Justice, Allahabad High Court.

Shri Justice A. L. Rao, Acting Chief Justice, Andhra Pradesh High Court.

Shri Justice M. K. Mukherjee, Chief Justice, Bombay High Court.

Shri Justice A. M. Bhattacharjee, Chief Justice, Calcutta High Court.

Shri Justice G. C. Mittal, Chief Justice, Delhi High Court.

Shri Justice S. N. Sundaram, Chief Justice, Gujarat High Court.

Shri Justice U. L. Bhat, Chief Justice, Guwahati High Court.

Shri Justice Bhawani Singh, Acting Chief Justice, Himachal Pradesh High Court.

Shri Justice S. C. Mathur, Chief Justice, Jammu & Kashmir High Court.

Shri Justice S. B. Majmudar, Chief Justice, Karnataka High Court.

Shri Justice M. Jagannadha Rao, Chief Justice, Kerala High Court.

Shri Justice K. A. Swami, Chief Justice, Madras High Court.

Shri Justice S. K. Jha, Chief Justice, Madhya Pradesh High Court.

Shri Justice B. L. Hansaria, Chief Justice, Orissa High Court.

Shri Justice B. C. Basak, Chief Justice, Patna High Court.

Shri Justice S. D. Agarwala, Chief Justice, Punjab & Haryana High Court.

Shri Justice K. C. Agarwal, Chief Justice, Rajasthan High Court.

Shri Justice S. N. Bhargava, Chief Justice, Sikkim High Court.

6. SPECIAL INVITEES

Shri Milon K. Banerji, Attorney General of India

Shri Ch. G. Krishnamurthy, President, Income-tax Appellate Tribunal.

Shri S. Narendra, Principal Information Officer.

Shri Sarvesh Chandra, Chairman, FERA Board.